RCE  
#13  
2/25/04

**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant  
application filed on or after June 8, 1995.  
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/576,999
Filing Date	May 24, 2000
Examiner Name	M. N. Zewdu
First Named Inventor	Thaddeus J. GABARA et al.
Group Art Unit	2683
Attorney Docket Number	29250-000261/US

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1.

a. ☒ Previously submitted

- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on December 19, 2003  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. Enclosed

- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2.

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3.

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

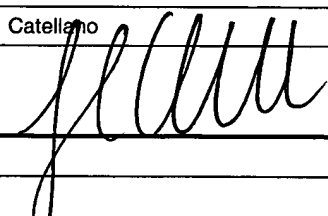
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) \$750.00
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) \$420.00
- iii. ☒ Other Any deficiency for a fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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FEB 23 2004

Technology Center 2600

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print /Type)	John A. Catellano	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	35,094
Signature		Date	February 18, 2004

02/19/2004 SSITHIB1 00000138 080750 09576999

01 FC:1801

770.00 OP

02/19/2004 SSITHIB1 00000138 080750 09576999

02 FC:1252

20.00 DA

400.00 OP